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ST. PIERRE-MIQUELON.

By Consul Samuel Hamilton Wiley.

Fishing is the sole industry of any importance in St. Pierre-Miquelon. A report from this consulate on the 1917 cod-fishing season of the colony, which appeared in COMMERCE REPORTS for March 27, 1918, stated:

The 1917 cod-fishing season for St. Pierre-Miquelon opened in May and closed about the 10th of November. On the basis of the quantity of fish caught per man and the high prices received for the fish, the season of 1917 was probably the best in the history of the colony; as to total catch, however, the take was considerably below that of other years, because of the lack of men and boats. Cod were very plentiful on the Banks and on the inshore fishing grounds during the entire season.

Caplin, the small fish used as bait in the early part of the season, made their appearance about June 15 in extraordinarily large numbers and continued plentiful during the entire caplin season of more than a month. Squid, the bait of the latter part of the season, appeared about July 20 and were plentiful until the end of the fishing season. The success of the Bank fisheries is dependent to a great extent upon the availability of squid for bait.

The fishing fleet of St. Pierre-Miquelon is composed of two classes of vessels: The Bank vessels (schooners fitted out in St. Pierre for fishing on the Banks) and the inshore boats (dories propelled in most instances by gasoline motors and manned by two men). The activities of the French Bank fleet should also be considered in a report on the St. Pierre fisheries, as these have a certain bearing on the economic life of the colony.

It may be noted here that during the past few years the relative importance of these three units, as regards local economic conditions, has undergone a radical change. Formerly the St. Pierre Bank fleet was the most numerous and most important of the three, with the French Bank fleet next in importance. The inshore fleet was a comparatively unimportant adjunct to the fisheries. During the past few years the St. Pierre Bank fleet has practically disappeared, the French Bank fleet, through the fact that but few of its vessels now call at St. Pierre, has lost most of its economic importance to the colony, and the inshore fishery has become the most important factor in the economic and industrial life of the colony.

The St. Pierre Bank fleet during the season of 1917 consisted of one schooner of 85 gross tons with a crew of 24 men. The catch of this vessel for the season was 3,252 quintals of green cod (394,315 pounds), valued at 148,153 francs ($27,435, at 5.40 francs to the American dollar).

St. Pierre Shore and French Bank Fleets.

The St. Pierre shore fleet, which operates near the shores of the colony, was composed during the 1917 season of 246 dories manned by 560 men. The catch of this unit amounted to 66,828 quintals of green cod (8,103,160 pounds), valued at 2,522,757 francs ($467,165). The local importance of this inshore fishery is easily perceptible on examination of the above figures, which show a per capita earning for men engaged of $834. To this amount must be added the value of cod by-products, livers, etc., which will bring the per capita earning up to about $1,000. This amount was earned in about five months, and in addition the fishermen provided cod, their principal article of food, for themselves and families for the entire year. The earnings of the inshore fishermen are practically net profit as the initial outlay and operating expenses in this industry are small.

It is a fact—not of great economic importance, but worthy of note—that during the season of 1917 quite a number of the inshore fishermen were colonists now serving with the military or naval forces of France, who were at home on 21 days' leave of absence. Many of these men spent their entire leave in the shore fishing, contributing to the prosperity of the colony and improving the financial condition of their families.

No exact data regarding the number of vessels or amount of the catch of the French Bank fleet during 1917 are available in St. Pierre. It is estimated that this fleet consisted of about 70 schooners manned by about 2,000 men. On a basis of 4,000 quintals per vessel, estimated from the catches of vessels of this unit which touched at St. Pierre, the catch was about 280,000 quintals (33,951,000 pounds). Estimating the value on a basis of 105 francs per quintal, the average price at ports where fish were sold in France, the catch was worth 29,400,000 francs ($5,444,300).

The 1917 season of the French Bank fleet was of but three months' duration—June to September. The usual fishing season for this fleet is from five to six months. According to reports of captains of vessels of this unit which touched at St. Pierre, the average catch per vessel was greater during the three months of 1917 than was usually the case during six months in former years.

The local market price of green cod, that is, cod cleaned and lightly salted, was 38 francs per quintal of 55 kilos ($7.04 per 121,254 pounds) for shore cod, and 46 francs ($8.52) per quintal for Bank cod. The prices during 1916 were 28.86 francs per quintal for shore cod and 41 francs for Bank cod.

On account of regulations in force during the war the entire catch of cod from St. Pierre-Miquelon will be exported to France or French colonies, the exportation of fish except to France or French colonies being prohibited. The scarcity of available bottoms for the transportation of the fish to France is a serious problem for the fish exporters of St. Pierre-Miquelon. If it is not satisfactorily solved before the commencement of the 1918 season, a considerable drop in the prices offered for cod on the local market will probably occur.

Minor Industries.

A small cod-liver oil factory, which was established a few years ago, was enlarged during 1917 and modern apparatus installed. The output of this factory during the year amounted to 19,825 gallons of first-grade and 4,927 gallons of second-grade medicinal oil and 2,915 gallons of commercial sun-tried oil. The price paid to fishermen for livers was about 25 cents per gallon. This utilization of cod livers is of considerable benefit to the fishermen, giving them a good price for what was formerly a waste product. The oil manufactured will be exported to France and possibly to the United States.

There was no other change in industrial activities, conditions as regards the other minor industries being the same as during 1916.

Foreign Trade of the Colony.

The value of the foreign trade of St. Pierre-Miquelon during 1917 was $1,256,946, as compared with $1,259,902 in 1916, a decrease of $2,956. This decrease was caused by the falling off in value of exports of fish and fishery products.

The following table shows the value of imports and exports, by countries, for 1916 and 1917:

Countries.	Imports from—		Exports to—	
	1916	1917	1916	1917
British West Indies	$33,619	$7,229	.....	.....
Canada	336,182	410,664	$30,845	$43,675
France	140,185	87,881	442,300	374,653
French colonies	11,169	9,367	76,809	67,100
Newfoundland	27,743	17,031	17,188	16,689
Portugal	31,430	16,416	.....	.....
Spain	1,287	5,930	.....	.....
United States	141,145	200,311	.....	.....
Total	692,760	754,829	567,142	502,117

Slight Increase in Import Trade.

The value of imports from Canada and the United States during 1917 showed a market increase over that of 1916, while imports from France decreased in value considerably.

Below are given the total foreign imports and their values for 1916 and 1917:

Articles.	1916	1917	Articles.	1916	1917
Animals, live	$16,022	$17,011	Meats:		
Arms and ammunition	3,388	2,716	Fresh	$15,541	$9,777
Biscuits	7,232	8,421	Preserved (salt and tinned)	20,901	40,269
Boots and shoes (leather)	32,731	23,258	Oil:		
Butter	27,171	19,748	Linseed	1,067	1,001
Chemical products	8,521	4,976	Mineral	16,491	19,202
Coal:			Paints	8,255	6,970
Anthracite	6,084	6,139	Paper and paper products	8,736	7,362
Soft	37,226	43,897	Rubber footwear, garments, etc.	21,317	36,202
Cocoa and chocolate	4,976	6,700	Salt	33,384	46,751
Coffee	4,454	11,779	Soap	11,503	7,058
Corn	3,876	7,656	Sugar	22,776	24,629
Corn meal	3,587	4,051	Tea	5,840	4,517
Cordage	4,833	6,525	Textiles	62,167	63,100
Eggs	2,291	1,525	Tobacco and products	37,615	27,324
Fish and fish products	21,476	6,918	Vegetables	17,588	22,351
Flour	32,260	75,811	Wines and spirits	57,701	59,914
Fruits	7,763	7,700	All other articles	78,624	66,344
Hay and fodder	4,950	5,124			
Lard	8,781	7,306	Total	692,760	754,829
Lumber	23,411	19,131			
Machines, machinery, and hardware	12,518	25,660			

Articles Supplied by Canada, France, and United States.

The following table shows the principal articles imported into St. Pierre-Miquelon during 1917 from Canada, France, and the United States:

Articles.	From Canada.	From France.	From United States.	Articles.	From Canada.	From France.	From United States.
Animals, live	$13,904	.....	.....	Rubber footwear, etc.	$16,076	$183	$14,930
Boots and shoes	18,075	$472	$4,711	Salt	19,348	.....	.....
Butter	17,000	.....	53	Sugar	13,712	.....	10,917
Coal	43,896	.....	6,139	Textiles	28,274	18,216	16,377
Flour	72,214	.....	3,597	Tobacco and products	6,730	8,000	12,448
Lumber	13,401	.....	1,202	Vegetables	19,065	950	3,952
Machines and hardware	13,945	$45	10,860	Wines and spirits	11,299	24,559	18,018
Meats:				All other articles	75,473	33,130	61,708
Fresh	8,962	.....	815				
Preserved	7,366	1,526	27,309	Total	410,664	87,881	200,311
Oil, mineral	11,924	.....	7,275				

The line in which there was the greatest increase in value of imports from the United States during 1917 was wines and spirits. As it was practically impossible to secure wines and liquors from France, American beverages have taken the place of French ones in this colony, especially in the case of claret, the daily beverage of the French population here. California claret is now used almost exclusively and gives complete satisfaction.

Market for American Wares—Summary of Exports.

St. Pierre-Miquelon is now importing from the United States the maximum amount of supplies obtainable. There is an opportunity to extend American trade here in the line of boots and shoes, rubber boots, waterproofs, overshoes, cheap woolen clothing, knit goods,

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internal-combustion marine motors, wines and spirits, and tobacco products.

Trade between St. Pierre-Miquelon and the United States would be increased if there were a parcel-post service between the two countries. Practically all articles of clothing, novelties, and many groceries and household articles are ordered from mail-order houses in Canada and sent here by parcel post.

The following table shows the value of exports from St. Pierre-Miquelon during the past two years:

Articles.	1916	1917
Fish and fish products	$509,321	$450,258
Salt, reexported	30,108	22,018
Other foreign goods reexported	27,713	29,881
Total	567,142	502,157

There were no declared exports to the United States in 1916 and 1917.

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